

REMARKS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified patent application, please enter the foregoing amendments.

Claims 12-31 are now pending in the above-identified patent application, as presented by the instant Preliminary Amendment. Claims 12, 23 and 27 are presented in independent form.

The present application represents the U.S. National Phase of P.C.T. Application No. PCT/DE2003/001284, filed April 16, 2003, and claiming foreign priority on the basis of a corresponding Federal Republic of Germany patent application, filed June 27, 2002.

The claims being entered via the present Preliminary Amendment are intended to substitute for Claims 1-11 of the P.C.T. international application, as presented in the accompanying literal English translation.

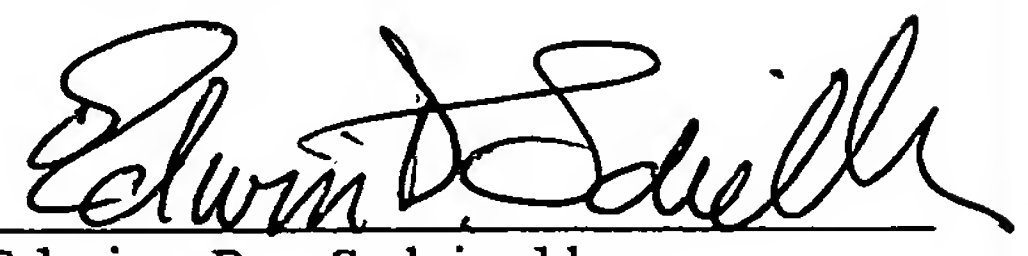
New Claims 12-31 have been drafted in conformance with U.S. claim practice. Various formal amendments have also been entered to the Specification. A new Abstract, on a separate sheet of paper in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) is also enclosed.

The application is now in condition for a full examination on the merits.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits and allowance are, therefore, respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enc.: Abstract of the Disclosure